

**ROOM VIII, Building E**  
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**Oceans economy and trade:**  
Sustainable fisheries, transport and tourism

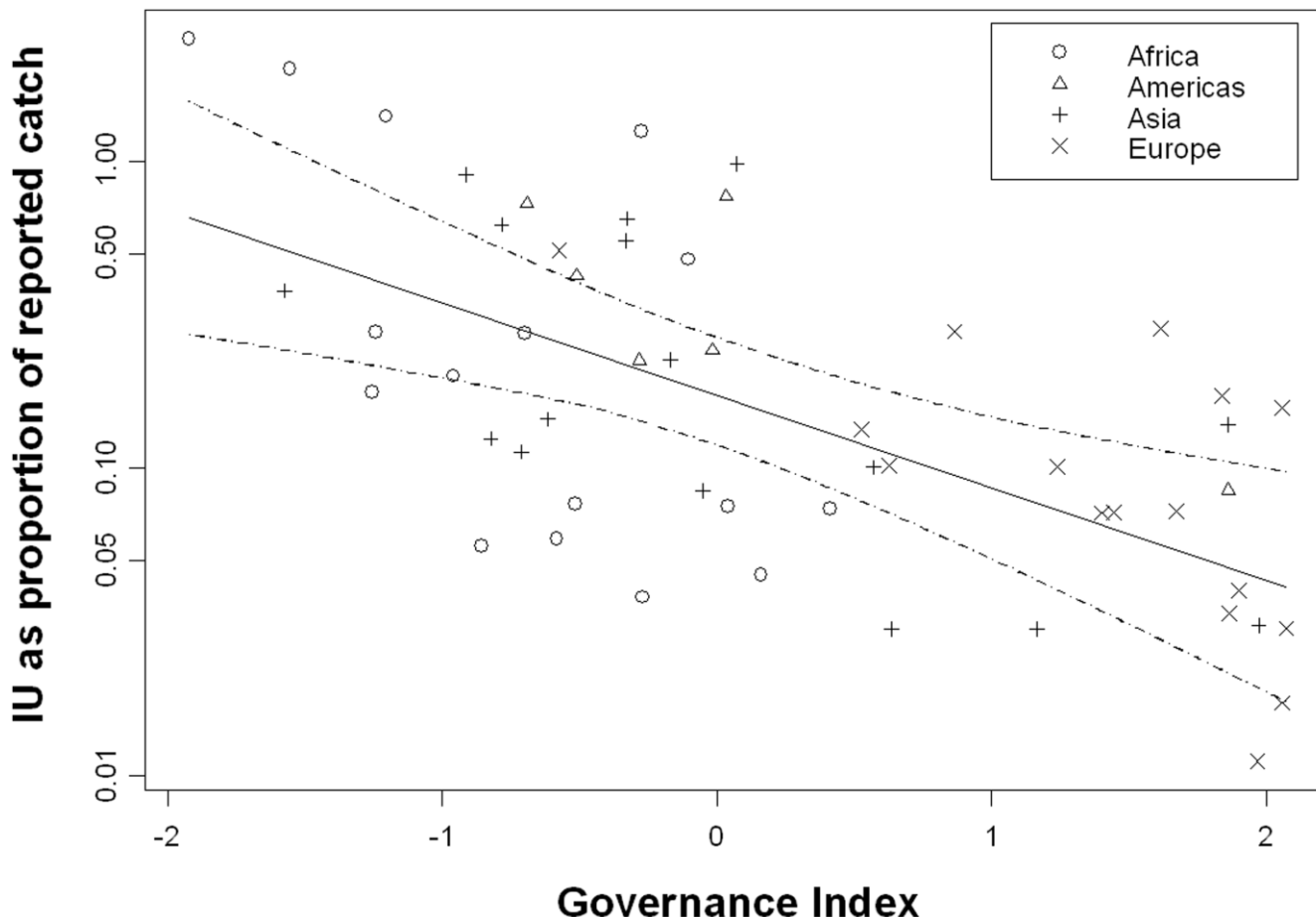


**SDG 14, the fight against IUU and developing country challenges**

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# Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing



- I&U global losses between USD 10bn - 23bn annually
- I&U fishing correlated with governance
- Catches off West Africa 40% higher than reported

Agnew et al. (2009) 'Estimating the Worldwide Extent of Illegal Fishing' PLOS One4(2): e4570. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0004570

## Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

**14.4** By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and **end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing** and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

**14.6** By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, **eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing** and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation

[FN: Taking into account ongoing World Trade Organization negotiations, the Doha Development Agenda and the Hong Kong ministerial mandate.]

## Addis Ababa Action Agenda (3<sup>rd</sup> Financing for Development conference, 2015)

92. We also recognize that **illegal wildlife trade, illegal unreported and unregulated fishing, illegal logging and illegal mining are a challenge** for many countries. Such activities can create substantial damage, including lost revenue and corruption.

...

We will also **enhance capacity for monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels so as to effectively prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including through institutional capacity- building.**

## Multilateral efforts

- **FAO**
  - International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate (IUU) Fishing
  - Port State Measures Agreement (1 ratification required for entry into force)
  - Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes (in development)
- **CITES for endangered species Annexes I and II**

## Regional efforts

- **Regional Fisheries Management Organisations**
  - Trade documentation schemes and import bans
  - Catch Documentation Schemes
- **Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement**
  - Prohibits subsidies provided to any fishing vessel listed by its flag state or an RFMO for IUU fishing.
  - Establishes commitments to address IUU fishing e.g. implement port state measures, support MCS and enforcement mechanisms to deter flagged vessels and nationals from IUU fishing and address transshipment....

# Unilateral efforts

## United States

- Identification: Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorisation Act (2006) e.g.
  - Colombia
  - Ecuador
  - Nicaragua
  - Portugal
- Certification: Traceability requirements for imports of at-risk fish (in development)

## European Union

- Identification: Yellow / Red / Green card system (2010) e.g.
  - Cambodia
  - Thailand
  - Sri Lanka
- Certification: catch documentation requirement covers all fish imported into the EU

*See Hosch, G. (2016) Forthcoming, ICTSD.*

## E15 Initiative Oceans and Fisheries Expert Group

### Policy Options Work Package 1: Market access conditions to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing

- Build consultative, effective and coordinated unilateral import measures
- Create a network of regional measures to address IUU fish trade
- Develop a system of multilateral instruments on trade in IUU fish products
- Support the expansion of private sector schemes

*Inclusiveness – Transparency – Policy coherence – Capacity-building*

# UNCTAD-Commonwealth Secretariat Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Trade in Sustainable Fisheries (2015) Chairman's Conclusions

- Achieve full transparency of **fisheries subsidies**
- Need to **quantify evidence on IUU, its market effects and the cost of inaction**, provide options to track trade in fish and assess companies' control over seafood value chains.
- Political will to promote implementation and practical application of **international instruments** like the FAO Port State Measures Agreement.
- **National IUU schemes should be based on international law** so they are not discriminatory, arbitrary or obstacles to trade, and should be focused on incentivising action to address IUU, not sanctioning.
- **Capacity-building to help developing countries address IUU fishing**. Lack of capacity to present appropriate documentation should not imply illegal origin.



## Food for thought...

- Role of disciplines on subsidies to IUU fishing (SDG 14.6)
- Effectiveness and development implications of multilateral vs unilateral schemes
- Incentives vs sanctions to improve compliance